The Proceedings of the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Aſſembled, upon the Obſervations of the Commiſſioners for Taking, Examining, and Stating the Publick Accounts of the Kingdom, Delivered into the Houſe of Peers.

CUP. 21 g. 29/10

Die Veneris 15° *Januarii*, 1702.

THIS Day Mr. *King*, Secretary to the Commiſſioners appointed by a late Act of Parliament, to Take, Examine and State the Publick Accounts of the Kingdom, Delivered at the Bar an Account of the General State of the Receipts and Iſſues of the Publick Revenue, between

The Feaſt of St. *Michael*, 1700. And the Feaſt of St. *Michael*, 1701. And alſo,
The Feaſt of St. *Michael*, 1701. And the Feaſt of St. *Michael*, 1702.

With their Obſervations thereupon.

Die Martis 26° *Januarii*, 1702.

The Houſe being Moved, That a Day may be Appointed for taking into Conſideration the Book of Publick Accounts, now before this Houſe: It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Aſſembled, That the ſaid Book of Accounts ſhall be taken into Conſideration on *Tueſday* next at Eleven a Clock.

Die Lunæ 1° *Februarii*, 1702.

It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Aſſembled, That the Commiſſioners of Accounts do lay before this Houſe to Morrow at Eleven a Clock, what further Obſervations they have made in relation to the Accounts, ſince the Delivery of the General State of Receipts and Iſſues of the Publick Revenue into this Houſe.

Die Martis 2° *Februarii*, 1702.

The Order being Read for taking into Conſideration the Book of Accounts:

It is thereupon Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Aſſembled, That the Queen's Remembrancer do immediately bring to this Houſe the Impreſt Rolls Tranſmitted to him ſince *November*, 1699.

Then the Title of the Book of Accounts was Read, and the Commiſſioners Obſervations.

After which it was Propoſed to Read the Obſervations upon the Accounts, Paragraph by Paragraph.

And the Firſt Paragraph being Read,

The Lord *Halifax* was Heard thereto.

Then the Houſe being informed, That Mr. *Gregory King* Attended at the Door from the Commiſſioners of Accounts;

He was called in, and at the Bar delivered the Commiſſioners of Accounts further Obſervations.

Then the Obſervations, delivered this day, were Read.

The Queen's Remembrancer attending was called in, and delivered the Impreſt Rolls Tranſmitted to him ſince 1699, as Ordered.

The Houſe being moved to Appoint a Committee to Conſider of the Obſervations delivered to this Houſe from the Commiſſioners of Accounts, it was Agreed to, as followeth: And

Lords Committees were appointed to Conſider of the Obſervations in the Book of Accounts delivered into this Houſe the Fifteenth day of *January* laſt, and this day. Whoſe Lordſhips having Conſidered thereof, and Heard ſuch Perſons concerning the ſame, as they ſhall think fit, are afterwards to Report their Opinion thereupon to this Houſe. Whoſe Lordſhips, or any Five of them, are to Meet to Morrow at Ten a Clock in the Forenoon, in the Princes Lodgings, near the Houſe of Peers, and to Adjourn as they pleaſe.

It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Aſſembled, That the Queen's Remembrancer do bring to the Lords Committees Appointed to Conſider of the Obſervations delivered by the Commiſſioners of Accounts, to Morrow at Ten a Clock, the Impreſt Rolls Tranſmitted to him ſince the Twentieth of *April*, 1697. being the time from which the Act commenced.

It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Aſſembled, That the Commiſſioners for Publick Accounts have Notice, That this Houſe hath Appointed a Committee to Conſider of the Obſervations delivered into this Houſe by them, to Morrow at Ten a Clock in the Forenoon, in the Princes Lodgings, near the Houſe of Peers.

Die Mercurii 3° *Februarii*, 1702.

This day Mr. *Barker*, Deputy to Her Majeſties Remembrancer, brought the other Impreſt Rolls, as Ordered Yeſterday, which were delivered to the Committee.

His Grace the Duke of *Somerſet* Reported, That the Lords Committees appointed to Conſider of the Obſervations from the Commiſſioners of Accounts, That they have taken the Firſt Obſervation into Conſideration, in relation to the Auditor of the Exchequer; and that the Commiſſioners of Accounts had Notice of the Committees Sitting, yet none of them Attended; and therefore the Committee is of Opinion, That a Meſſage be ſent to the Houſe of Commons, that they may have Leave to Attend. To which the Houſe Agreed. Then

A Meſſage was ſent to the Houſe of Commons by Sir *John Franklyn* and Sir *Richard Holford*, to Acquaint them, That this Houſe hath Appointed a Committee to Conſider of the Obſervations in the Book of Accounts, laid before this Houſe by the Commiſſioners of Accounts the Fifteenth of *January* laſt, and alſo thoſe delivered Yeſterday from the ſaid Commiſſioners; That the Committee

Met Yesterday in the Morning, and had proceeded upon the First Observation, and the Additional Observation, relating to the Auditor of the Receipt of the Exchequer; and those Commissioners being Members of the House of Commons, the Lords do Desire that the House would give Leave, That those Commissioners, or some of them, should Attend the said Committee, on *Friday* next at Ten a Clock in the Forenoon.

Die Jovis 4° Februarii, 1702.

The Messengers sent to the House of Commons Yesterday, return Answer, That the Commons will send an Answer by Messengers of their own.

Die Veneris 5° Februarii, 1702.

His Grace the Duke of *Somerset* Reported from the Lords Committees Appointed to Consider of the Observations delivered into this House from the Commissioners of Accounts, That the said Commissioners had not Attended the Committee, but upon Consideration of the whole Matter, the Committee had Ordered him to Report, as followeth:

The Committee appointed to Consider of the Observations in the Book of Accounts, delivered into this House the Fifteenth Day of *January* last, and the Second of this Instant *February*, have made some Progress in Considering the said Observations, and do Humbly take leave to acquaint the House, That they have Examined into the First of those Observations; And also the further Observation delivered into this House the Second Instant, relating to the Transmitting the Ordinary Impress Rolls to the Queen's Remembrancer: They have Inspected several of the Original Impress Rolls delivered into the House by Mr. *Barker*, Deputy to Her Majesties Remembrancer: They also Examined divers Officers of the Exchequer, and others upon Oath; and do find, That by the Ancient and Uninterrupted Course of the Exchequer, Two Impress Rolls are to be made out for each Year; The One Comprehending all Sums Impress from the end of *Trinity* Term, to the end of *Hillary* Term; the other containing all such Sums from that time to the end of *Trinity* Term; which Rolls are commonly called half Yearly Rolls, tho' Improperly: They find that by the Ancient Course of the Exchequer, these Impress Rolls, being made out by the Auditor of the Receipt, are to be delivered by him to the Clerk of the Pells, whose Duty it is to Examine and Sign them; And this being done, the Clerk of the Pells delivers them to the Remembrancer.

This Usage was by Degrees Discontinued in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second; And the Remembrancer or his Agent used to come to the Office of the Auditor of the Receipt, and take away the Impress Rolls from thence immediately: But in the time when the Earl of *Rochester* was Treasurer, the Ancient Usage was Restored, and he did Order that the Impress Rolls should be Carefully Examined and Signed by the Clerk of the Pells, before they should be Transmitted to the Remembrancer, and accordingly since that time, the Ancient Custom has been Observed, as well before, as since the Act of Parliament made in the Eighth and Ninth Year of His late Majesty, *For the better Observation of the Course Anciently Used in the Receipt of the Exchequer*: (that is to say,) The said half Yearly Rolls, when made out and Signed by the Auditor, have been by him Transmitted to the Clerk of the Pells, and when the Clerk of the Pells has Examined and Signed them, he or his Deputy has Delivered them to the Remembrancer, and this appears by the Remembrancers Endorsement upon the Rolls. The Committee finds that *Charles* Lord *Halifax* has been Auditor of the Receipt from the end of *November*, 1699. Since which time Six Impress Rolls have been Transmitted to the Remembrancer, and there is a Seventh Roll now under Examination, of the Office of the Pells, and no other Roll can be prepared till after the Twelfth of this Instant *February*.

Upon the whole Matter, the Committee are Humbly of Opinion, That *Charles* Lord *Halifax*, Auditor of the Receipt of the Exchequer, hath performed the Duty of his Office, in Transmitting the Ordinary Impress Rolls to the Queen's Remembrancer, according to the Ancient Custom of the Exchequer, and the Direction of the Act VIII. & IX. *Gulielmi* III. *Regis*, Intituled, *An Act for the better Observation of the Course Anciently Used in the Receipt of the Exchequer*; and that he hath not been Guilty of any Neglect, or Breach of Trust, upon that Account.

Which Report being Read, as also the Examinations taken upon Oath by the Committee, as also the Dates and Endorsements of the several Impress Rolls, elivered by Mr. *Barker*, Deputy to the Queen's Remembrancer: It was Proposed to agree with the Opinion of the Committee in this Report.

Then the Question was put, Whether this House will agree to the Opinion of the Committee in this Report?

It was Resolved in the Affirmative.

It is Resolved and Declared by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled, That *Charles* Lord *Halifax* Auditor of the Receipt of the Exchequer hath Performed the Duty of his Office, in Transmitting the Ordinary Impress Rolls to the Queen's Remembrancer, according to the Ancient Custom of the Exchequer, and the Direction of the Act VIII. & IX. *Gulielmi* III. *Regis*, Intituled, *An Act for the better Observation of the Course Anciently used in the Receipt of the Exchequer*, and that he hath not been Guilty of any Neglect or Breach of Trust upon that Account.

Die Veneris 5° Februarii, 1702.

It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled, That the Proceedings of the House, and of the Committee appointed to Consider of the Observations in the Book of Accounts, delivered into this House the Fifteenth of January *last, and the Second Day of this Instant* February, *and the Resolution of this House thereupon, shall be forthwith Printed and Published.*

Math. Johnson, *Cler. Parliamentor.*

London, Printed by *Charles Bill*, and the Executrix of *Thomas Newcomb*, deceas'd, Printers to the Queens most Excellent Majesty. MDCCII.

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